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The marvellous budget, 65,536 stories about Jack and Jill

Frederick Bennett

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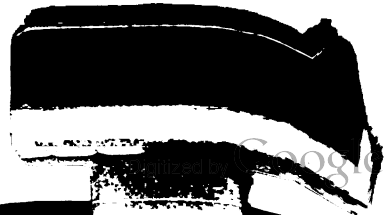

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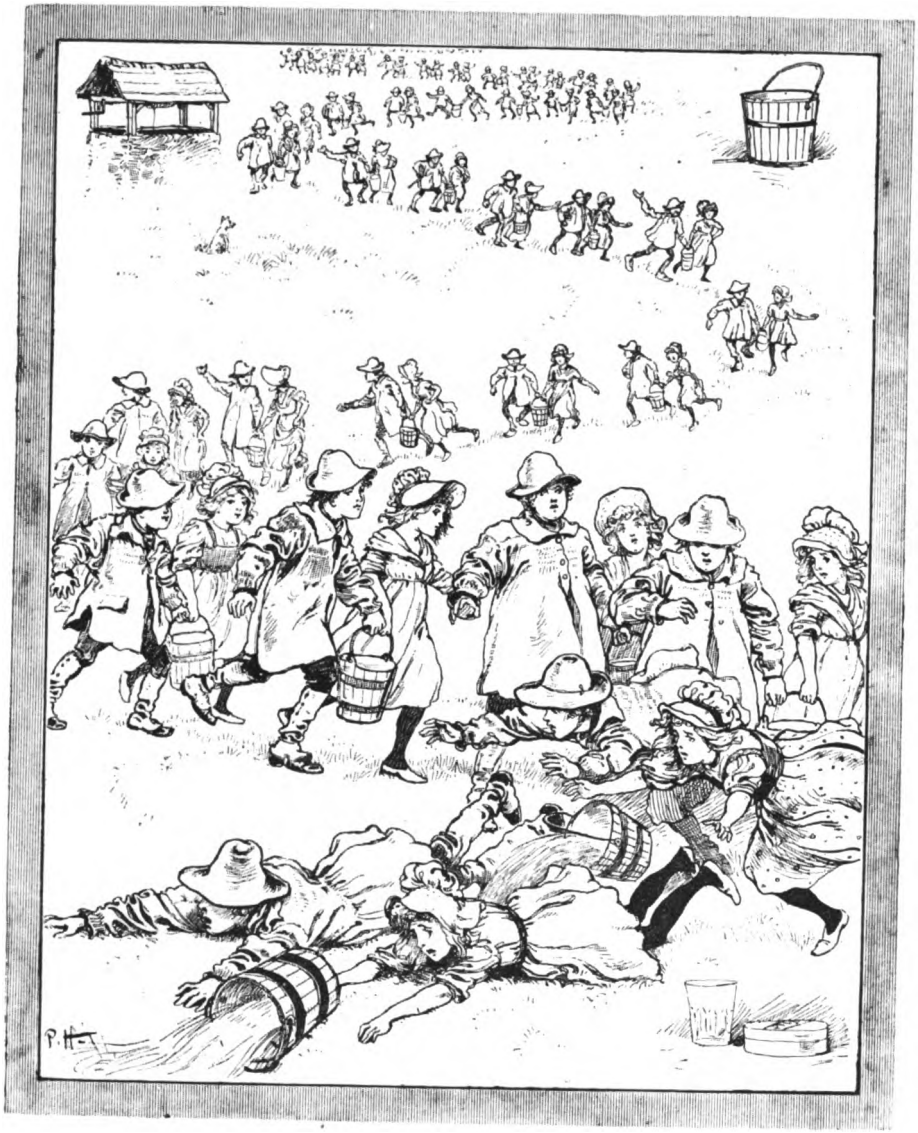

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THE MARVELLOUS BUDGET:

BEING

65,536 Stories about Jack and Jill.

BY

THE REV. F. BENNETT.

Illustrated.

CASSELL & COMPANY, LIMITED:
LONDON, PARIS & MELBOURNE.
1890.

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FOR

THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING

OF THIS BOOK

THERE IS HERE SUBJOINED A CERTAIN

PREFACE.

VERY DEAR YOUNG READERS,

You will find in this book (which is quite unlike, and far superior to, every other book heretofore written) four pages marked "Page 1," then four pages marked "Page 2," then four pages marked "Page 3," and so on to the end. You may read any of the pages marked 1, then any one of those marked 2, then any marked 3, till you come to the conclusion of the story in page 8.

Now, if you will enquire of your clever cousin, Miss Girton, who has been in for mathematics at Cambridge and so knows all about figures, you will learn that there are no less than sixty-five thousand five hundred and thirty-six tales in this book about Jack and Jill, not two of which are exactly alike.

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— 1 —

THE STORY OF JACK AND JILL.

THERE were once upon a time (for all things, you know, happened *then*) a little boy and a little girl whose names were Jack and Jill. But though these were their right names, yet their friends commonly called them "Jack-and-the-beanstalk" and "Gilly-flower;" not that *my* Jack was the one who had such a notable bean-stalk, or that *my* Jill was a "Gilly-flower" and lived on a wall; but their friends, you know, called them by these names *for short*.

JACK.

"Once upon a time," then, Jack and Jill were a little boy and a little girl, but if they are still alive, I am afraid they are no longer a *little* boy and girl, nor even a girl and boy at all. For, "once upon a time," alas! is ever so long ago, and though men and women, when they are grown up, wish they were little boys and girls again very often, and had only such thoughts and such cares as little boys and girls have, yet "once upon a time" is a cruel sort of creature, and when he has once gone away, he never, never comes back to us.

JILL.

These little children, then, "Jack-and-the-beanstalk" and "Gilly-flower," lived

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— 1 —

The Story of JACK AND JILL.

JACK and Jill were a little boy and a little girl. Except this particular Jill, who is the heroine of my story, I never heard of any girl called "Jill," and for that reason I think it is probable that it must have been the same Jack and Jill, who once (as we are told on good authority) went up the hill

"To fetch a pail of water,"

when, most unfortunately, Jack

"fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling a'ter."

THIS IS JILL GOING UP THE HILL.

You must not put in the "f" of "after," or else I am sorry to say that these verses will not rhyme.

Now, whether this terrible misfortune happened to our friends before or after the event which I am going to tell you, I have not yet been able to find out. One thing, however, you will be pleased to hear, which is that, if it *had* happened, Jack's crown was mended again and Jill's bruises were quite healed. I have also been able to discover another thing for your benefit, and that is, that it was Cockle's antibilious pills which made Jack's crown well again, and Alexander Ross's nose machine which cured Jill so completely.

THIS IS JILL COMING DOWN AGAIN.

Now, I have no doubt you will be anxious to know where Jack and Jill lived, so I must now go on to tell you all about that. They used, then, to live

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— 1 —

The Story of Jack and Jill.

AS I know very well, my dear young friends, from long acquaintance with you, how anxious you all are to learn some useful knowledge from your story books, I have taken a great deal of pains to find out the full and true account of my little friends Jack and Jill, who are the hero and the heroine of my story.

KING JAMES II. (FROM A PHOTO.).

Some learned men, then, tell us that Jack and Jill were very important people indeed, Jack being no less a person than James II., King of England. And they say that "Jack" is only a mistake for "Jacques," which in French means "James;" and that the crown which he broke was not the crown which we all have on our heads, but the crown of gold which kings only have, and which, you know, James II. had the misfortune to lose. You can see him in his carte-de-visite in the margin, curled wig and all, and you will see how terribly unhappy he looked when he heard he was going to lose his golden crown, for he thought, I fancy, that, if he didn't take care, he would lose the other crown on his head as well.

"MANY A WINK HE WUNK."
† *Shakespere.*

This is one account of Jack and Jill, but other learned men have different opinions concerning them, for learned men are apt to disagree, and usually prefer to find out something new and startling, rather than repeat the same things, however true. So they tell us Jack and Jill had something to do with the moon, and that their pail of water is only the rain, which, you know, the moon looks after.

But my Jack and Jill did not live in the moon; on the contrary, they lived

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— 1 —

The Story of Jack and Jill.

OF course, you have heard of Jack and Jill; whoever was there who had *not* heard of them? You know (to to sure you do) all about "Fly away, Jack!" "Fly away, Jill!" "Come back, Jack!" "Come back, Jill!" But for all that, my dear young readers (*all* young readers are dear to me when they read *my* books), I don't believe you ever heard of the story concerning Jack and Jill which *I* am going to tell you.

For the Jack and Jill whose interesting adventures I am going to narrate were by no means composed of paper, nor did they ever sit on any one's fingers, nor fly away suddenly and then return. They were simply a little boy and a little girl. They both had eyes of the merriest colour, hair of the most curling glossiness, teeth of the most pearly sharpness, cheeks of the most reddy plumpness, hands of the most dirty graspiness, and feet of the most climbing danciness. Anybody could see they were brother and sister, they were so bright and merry alike, and there were so many points of resemblance. They both liked apples very much; they both liked play better than lessons; they both ran after butterflies when they saw them; they both liked getting bird's-nests whenever they could; they both wanted to be grown-up men and women; they were both always ready to eat any thing good; they both cried when they were hurt and laughed when they were pleased. Who could possibly doubt then, who considered carefully all these many points of resemblance between them, that Jack and Jill were brother and sister?

JACK AND JILL.

But first I must tell you where our friends Jack and Jill lived, which was

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in a beautiful old farm-house, with gable ends to its roofs, and old beams of black oak in its walls. There were green fields and hedges all about, and there was also a large wood near the house. And in the fields there were cows red and white, and there were large pigs that grunted and small pigs that squealed, and great tramping cart-horses that dragged along the heavy wagons, loaded with hay when it was June and with wheat and barley when it was August or September.

It was very pleasant for Jack and Jill to get up early in the morning in the summer and go and see the cows milked, and get a nice cup of milk out of the pail. Sometimes, also, they would go and see the pigs fed, and then they laughed to see them, how they fought and pushed each other about to get at the nasty wash that was poured into their troughs.

"A BEAUTIFUL OLD FARM-HOUSE."

And then, in the autumn they could go into the orchard and eat the nice rosy apples that were falling on the ground, and in the spring and summer there were plenty of gooseberries and currants and raspberries to be eaten in the garden at the back of the house, so you see how happy they must have been.

BUT now, I think, it is high time to tell you another thing about these children, and a very important one too, and that is what sort of children our friends Jack and Jill were,

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in the middle of a great town called London, where the Queen lives. Now, you would like to hear about the Queen. She, you know, rules over us, and does what her Prime Minister tells her she ought to do, and this Prime Minister does what the Parliament tells *him* to do, and the Parliament does what *we* tell them to do, and *we* do what the Queen tells us to do, and you will learn when you grow older and wiser that this arrangement is called the British Constitution.

Now, in *London* there are a great many improvements upon country life. First there is a river there, called the Thames, which is full of mud, and out of the mud they make butter in London, because they are so much cleverer than folks are in the country, who only know how to make it out of cream. There are also fogs in London which turn day into night, which makes an agreeable change, and the railways go underground, so that you cannot see anything out of the windows, which prevents your getting dizzy with seeing things whirled past you. And then when the snow comes down it gets quite black at once, which prevents it from showing the dirt, and as you walk along there are nice little black things, called smuts, which settle on the end of your nose, and save you the trouble of wearing patches on your face as our clever ancestors used to do. All these advantages, and many others, people have who live in London.

Considering, then, all these delights of London, you will, I am sure, be much surprised to hear that Jack and Jill were actually pleased when they heard they and their father and mother were to spend some time with an uncle who lived in the country, in an old house which was near a large wood.

NOW, in the next place, you will want to be told what sort of children this Jack and Jill were,

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in a country village. It was a pretty village, with a bright stream running all down the middle of it; and there were little bridges across the stream, and shoals of little fishes glancing about near the bridges; and there was a village church, at one end of the village street, with an old ivy-decked tower, which had five bells in it, and only four of the five were cracked, so you may think the villagers had a merry peal or two at Christmas, and thought no bells in the country round were half so good as theirs.

A CLOCK THAT WAS ALWAYS RIGHT.

There was a clock, too, in the tower of the church, and the clock told the hour whenever it happened to be right, which was always exactly twice in every twenty-four hours.

And all down the village street, on each side, and so placed that the inhabitants could see the clock and hear the bells, there were pretty little snug cottages, with roses trained over the porches, and windows with stone mullions, and paths leading down to the street, and gates with burly figures and happy faces, looking out inquiringly to see how the world was getting on. In fact, there never was a pleasanter place before nor since.

HAPPY FACES AT THE COTTAGE GATES.

I AM sure you will be wanting to hear (now that I have told you where they lived) something else about this little boy and girl, that is, what sort of children they were,

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near the sea-shore in a fishing village. There were great rocks towering up into the sky from the shingle on the beach, and a broad bay between the cliffs with a sandy shore, and a little river running down a valley into the sea. And on each side of the little river were houses, and beside it a little pier ran a little way out into the blue water with it. The river came down between some rocks, covered with ferns and shrubs, and by it ran a winding road up into the country behind, and through the midst of a large wild wood.

There were boats, too, along the shore, and fishing smacks, with large reddish-yellow sails, that sailed out sometimes all together in the evening into the far waters, where Jack and Jill could see them no longer, and came back in the morning with their holds quite full of bright, shining fishes, and then what an unloading there was! And then the women came down to buy a few out of the boats before the rest were packed up in barrels to go away to be eaten in smoky London.

Sometimes Jack and Jill would go along the shore and catch the small fishes that darted about in the pools left by the tide; sometimes they would play on the sand and build castles, which the water came and washed away; and sometimes they would go a little way up the road and wonder what there was in the wood on the banks of the stream.

THIS, then, was where Jack and Jill lived, and the next thing in telling you my tale will be to let you know what sort of children Jack and Jill were,

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for it always makes a story much more interesting to know what kind of people they were of whom it tells us.

I am glad, then, to tell you that Jack and Jill were both of them very good children indeed. They never told stories, except such as were strictly true, and in this point differed very much from other tellers of stories. They never ate so much fruit as to make themselves ill; in this point differing much from aldermen. They never were idle over their lessons; they never scratched each other's eyes out; they never pulled out the whole of each other's hair; they never, in short, did anything that was wrong except on quite special and exceptional occasions. For there are exceptions to every rule, you know, and so there were with regard to Jack and Jill. Whether the occasion of which I am about to tell you was an exceptional and special occasion or not, I shall leave you to judge for yourselves.

BEING, then, such very good children, everyone of course loved Jack and Jill very much, and especially their father and mother, who always kissed them good night when they went to bed, and kissed them good morning, too, when they came down to breakfast. Every birthday, too, they had such charming presents given them—toys which would break to pieces quite easily, which is the chief use of toys, and little books about little boys and girls that were as good as Jack and Jill themselves, or if they were not, who came in due course, like a young gentleman who was called "Don't-care," "*to a bad end.*" Now, these children went on a certain day

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for all the nice story books tell us first of all what sort of children they were of whom they tell us stories.

I am sorry, then, to have to tell you that Jack and Jill were both very naughty children indeed. There never was any peace with them at home or abroad. They could never be kept quiet; they fought with each other and with everyone else; tore out handfuls of each other's hair, and scratched each other's cheeks till the blood ran down them; then they screamed with all their might, and Jill ran to tell papa that it was all Jack's fault, and Jack ran to tell mamma it was all Jill's fault. They always ate the sugar out of the sugar basin, and said afterwards they saw the cat eat it; they put broomsticks to upset old Mary, the housemaid, and each said they saw the other do it; they broke the window by throwing stones at each other, and then said the little boy in the lane did it; they teazed old Tozer, the dog, knowing him to be too good-natured to bite them; they stroked the cat the wrong way; they put stones in the fire to see them "hop;" they brought in their hats and bonnets full of chafers, to see them fly about the house into people's eyes and into the candles; they put cobbler's wax on the schoolmaster's chair, so that when he got up the chair got up with him; they stole all the candle ends, and when everyone supposed them safe in bed, they lit up their room with rows of candles, and practised how quickly they could blow them all out in case anyone should come in to see if they were asleep. Now as, of course, *you* never did such things in all your lives, you will quite agree with me that they were not very nice children, certainly not so nice as, I am sure, *you* are.

"OLD TOZER"

ELL! It so happened that one day our little friends Jack and Jill, such as they were, went off

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for it makes a great deal more difference to the happiness of children, whether they are good or bad, than it does where they live.

There was, then, a great contrast between Jack and Jill; one was a very good child, the other a very bad one. *Of course*, it was Jack who was the bad one and Jill the good one, because when one of two children is naughty, it is sure to be the boy. This is only natural, you know, for this reason:—that little boys are made

"Of slugs and snails,
And puppy dogs' tails,"

whereas it is well-known that little girls are made

"Of sugar and spice,
And all things nice."

JACK WAS A NAUGHTY BOY.

Now, the natural result of Jack's being thus made up was that he was always in a "row;" he was often shut up in a dark room; he was told the black man would have him; he was told the fairies would take him away; he was told the brownies would carry him off. All this he was told for this reason, that his worst fault was telling lies, and it was reasonably supposed that the best way to cure him of telling lies was to tell him a few. But somehow it did not answer. Jill was just the opposite to all this. She was always good, never told lies, never cried, never was put in the corner, never got into a scrape, much less into a "row," never was told the black man would come: in fact, being made of sugar and spice, was naturally "a sweet child."

One day, our acquaintances, Jack and Jill, unlike as they were, went together

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for you know that people who are grown up, and who are, consequently, very wise, think nothing of the *story* that is in a book, but only of the characters of the people in it; at least, they pretend to, and that does just as well.

There was not very much likeness between Jack and Jill, for one was good and the other bad. Jack (like all other little boys in story books adapted for the young) was always a very good boy indeed. He always ate all the fat on his plate, or gave it secretly to the dogs under the table; he never thought of asking for more than six helpings of Christmas pudding; he was never known to have eaten more than five hundred gooseberries in one day; he never teased the great mastiff at the door; and it is recorded that he never cried for the moon while in his nurse's arms in the day-time.

JILL WAS A NAUGHTY GIRL.

But Jill was just the exact opposite to all this. She must, I am afraid, have been spoiled, for all little girls are good unless they are spoiled. So *she* cried for what she wanted till she got it, having early in life made the discovery that *that* was the best way to get it; she asked for as much pudding as she wanted; she ate as many gooseberries as were good for her, and more too; she did not like fat, as all *good* children invariably do; she liked running about without shoes or stockings; she got into the store-room and dipped her fingers into the jam; she put frogs into the servants' beds; and in spite of all these terrible enormities and shocking misdeeds, was never the least bit afraid that the fairies would carry her off.

One day, these two very unlike children, for once agreeing together, set off

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all by themselves, without any leave, into the woods—the wild, beautiful woodlands that were near where they were living.

They thought they should like to live all by themselves in the wood, and build a little house and make a farm-yard of their own, and have hedgehogs for pigs, and weasels for cows, and dormice for dogs, and robins for cocks and hens, and water-wagtails for peacocks, and, in short, something instead of everything else. They intended to make bread out of hawthorn berries; "and we can drink water out of the stream, you know," said Jack, "we shall not want cider."

JILL WAITED TILL THE HOUSE WAS BUILT.

Jill thought it would be very nice to be no expense to mamma, and they went into the wood, and Jack got out his knife and began busily to build a house. "It will be the house that Jack built, you know," he said to Jill. It so happened, however, that by the time evening was come, Jack, though he had worked very hard, had made very little progress in building his house; and it did not seem probable they would be able to sleep there that night at any rate. "I am afraid it will take a long time to build a house with a knife," said Jack, with a sigh.

JILL was by this time rather inclined to cry, and thought they had better go home. It was getting dark, and they were beginning to be afraid. But, when they had gone only a little distance, they found, as they were wandering about,

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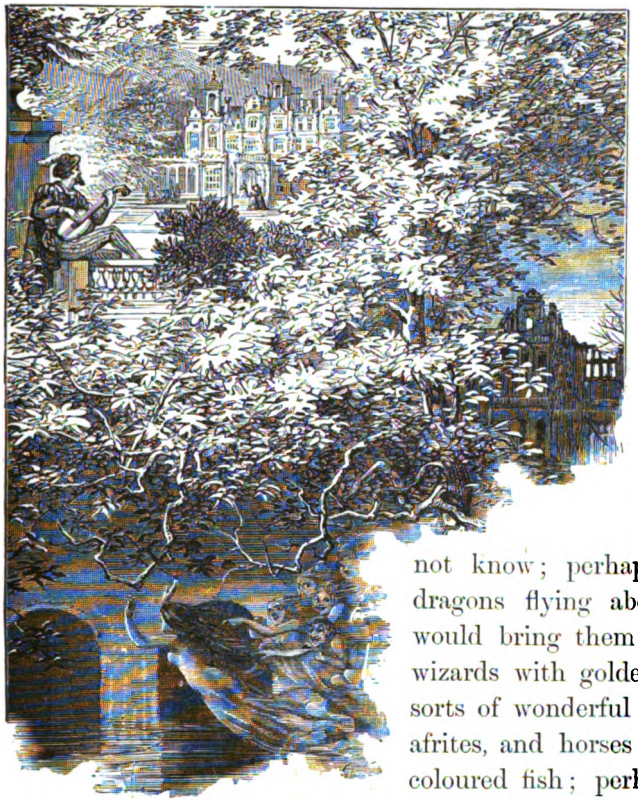

ENCHANTED PALACES IN THE WOODS.

all by themselves into the wood which was near.

They were both of them, I think, naughty children that day, for they had often been told by their mamma not to go into the wood, but, you see, one child very often leads another into mischief, and so it was here; the one began the naughtiness, and the other followed.

What they expected to find in the woods I do not know; perhaps enchanted palaces, with dragons flying about: perhaps fairies, that would bring them lots of elfin toys; perhaps wizards with golden robes, that could do all sorts of wonderful things; perhaps genies and afrites, and horses of brass, and lakes full of coloured fish; perhaps—but it is impossible to put down all the perhapses, for there is no saying what you might not find in a wood, and still less what a little boy and girl might not *expect* to find there.

But, however this may be—expect what they might, the truth is that they found nothing in the wood to answer their expectations—they strolled about, hand in hand, a long time; ate some berries on the trees, watched the birds and squirrels, and enjoyed themselves very much.

SO Jack and Jill, having wandered about all day, and having found neither palaces, nor fairies, nor wizards, and being very hungry and finding it grew dark, were frightened, and would have gone home. But they could not find their way; and, as they went along, they saw

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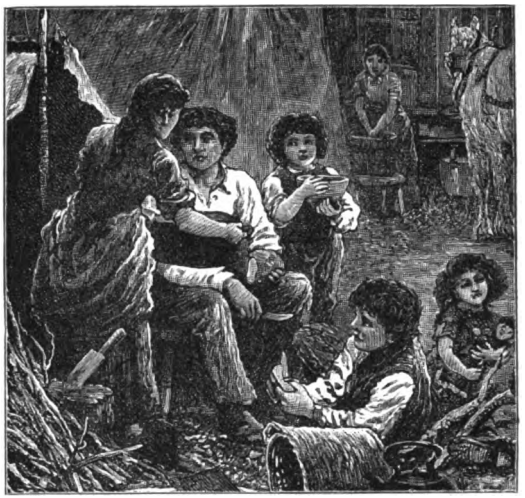
into the wood all by themselves. They had heard that there were gipsies in the wood, who lived in a tent and cooked by a fire of sticks. They thought it would be much nicer to be gipsies than to live at home.



SO JOLLY TO BE A GIPSY.

"It would be so jolly," said Jack, "to go about wherever we liked, to sing songs by the fire, to boil our kettle hung up on three sticks, and to catch rabbits and weasels."

But luckily there were then no gipsies in the wood, for if there had been they would certainly have carried off Jack and Jill and made them gipsies, whether they liked it or not, and it is pretty certain that they would not have really liked it.

So they wandered about all day. They watched the little birds sitting near their nests or feeding their young ones; they chased the bright butterflies that flitted in and out among the trees, and settled so near their hands, but darted away just as they thought they had caught them; they watched the bright little fishes as they skimmed about in the stream that ran down through the wood, and hid themselves under the overhanging boughs when they caught sight of Jack and Jill looking at them.

But no gipsies appeared, nor even any old, deserted gipsy fire could they find; and they began to get very hungry, having come out soon after breakfast, and finding no food in the wood except last year's hawthorn berries, and, to say the truth, the blackbirds and thrushes had eaten nearly all of them.

T last, the evening began to come on. It grew darker and darker among the distant trees of the wood; the bats began to circle around their heads; they did not know which way to go, and were inclined to cry, when, looking up, they saw

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into the great wood, the edge of which was not far from the house.

WENT OFF TO THE WOODS.

What they meant to do in the wood is more than I can tell you: whether they wandered there accidentally, or whether they thought to find something there to please their parents with when they got home, I do not know. But it is certain they found it—for a time, at least—a very pleasant place. It was delightful to look up at the great trees, stretching out their long arms and fluttering all their thousands of little leaves. Then they liked to see the squirrels running up the trees, and turning round their heads, with sharp, black eyes, to look at them. There was a kingfisher, too, that hovered over the little stream, and then, darting into it, brought out a poor, little, shining fish in his bill.

And looking at all these interesting things, the time passed pleasantly enough. They wandered on and on through the wood, sometimes sitting down to rest at the foot of some great moss-covered tree; sometimes having to crawl under the tangled bushes; sometimes climbing up into the low trees and talking over what they had seen.

They never thought of being hungry, though they had started soon after breakfast. Dinner-time and tea-time went by, and in the midst of the wonders of the wood they never even thought of dinner or tea.

But still the time went on, and they knew less and less into what part of the wood they had got. At last they sat down, having made up their minds to rest and then go home.

THE sun was now set and the darkness rapidly coming on. The moon began to show itself and to look silvery among the trees; and one or two stars could be seen among the boughs. They started to go home, but lost their way. As they went along, they found

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a little robin redbreast sitting on its nest in the boughs of a large tree, whose branches stretched themselves up in the sky, and whose great roots were hollowed out at the bottom and had a large space beneath them.

The little robin sat on the edge of its nest, which had five young ones in it. It looked down at them compassionately with its bright, bead eyes, putting its head on one side. It was plain that it wished to help them, and was thinking what was best. At last, having also considered about rhymes (for robins, as you know, always talk to us in poetry), it gave them the best advice it could, and this is

What the robin said:—

"Tweet; tweet; little boy, pray what are you doing
So far from home in the wood?
Tweet; tweet; little girl, and where are you going?
You seem in a downcast mood!

"You're both hungry, I guess, but there's not much *here*
For hungry children to eat;
You would not much care for *our* sort of cheer,
At least so I think; tweet! tweet!

"Should I go and find you a blue-bottle fly,
Or a long, black, hairy spider;
Or see if I anywhere can spy
An acorn cup full of cider?

"Far up in the woods a storm is brewing,
And the sun 's gone down in the west;
I wonder whatever your mother was doing
To let you come out of your nest.

"*My* little chicks I keep safe in-doors,
And I've put them all in their beds;
Their cradle rocks as the west wind roars,
And their little wings shelter their heads.

ROBIN GAVE ADVICE.

"*Our* house isn't big enough, you see,
Or else we'd take you in too,
So you'd better creep into the old hollow tree;
It has plenty of room for you."

Jack and Jill thought the best thing they could do was to take this advice and go home in the morning to their father and mother, so they crept into

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a yellowy-reddish squirrel with a long tail, sitting on the bough of an old hollow tree, cracking nuts with great vigour.

When the squirrel saw them, it began to make a speech.

"Lady and gentleman," said the squirrel, "unaccustomed as I am ——"

"I've heard that before," said Jack; "they made *me* say that on my last birthday."

"How can I speak if you interrupt me?" said the squirrel, angrily.

"I won't again," said Jack.

"—to public speaking," went on the squirrel, taking care not to repeat himself; "I—I think you're in a—in a fix (it's not a very good word for a speech, but——)"

"*Never* mind," said Jill, soothingly.

"Now *you're* interrupting," said the squirrel, as if he had not hesitated at all.

"I won't again," said Jill, apologisingly.

"Well, then, I recommend—advise you, that is," said the squirrel, "to sleep in the root of the tree. Are you hungry?"

"Yes; very," said Jack and Jill at once.

"Are you fond of nuts?"

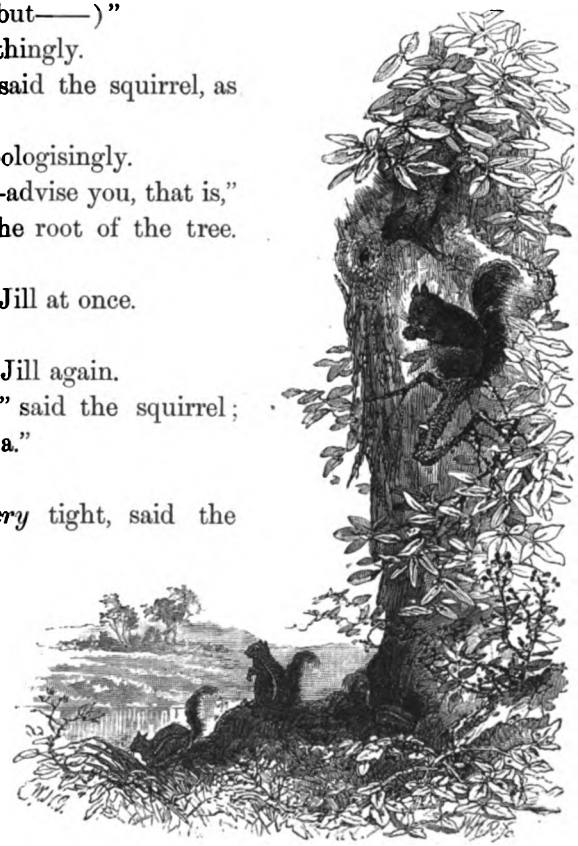
"Yes; very," said Jack and Jill again.

"I've some very good, then," said the squirrel; "imported in tins from Australia."

"What a cram!" said Jack.

"They *are* crammed in, *very* tight, said the squirrel, who did not understand slang; "and my hole is full of them, so I can easily give you a few."

Jack and Jill having thanked the squirrel and wished him good night, proceeded to take his advice as to a night's lodging, and at once crawled into



"A SQUIRREL CRACKING NUTS WITH GREAT VIGOUR."

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an owl sitting on the bough of a great hollow tree, winking at them with all its might and main.

"Well?" said Jack, evidently seeing that the owl had something to say; and this is

THE OWL'S OPINION.

"To-whit, to-whoo—oo—oo—oo—
Pray who are *you*?

"To-whoo, to-whit,
It isn't fit,
To-whit, to-whoo,
For such as *you*,
To be out in the dew,
All the night through.

"You shouldn't have come
Here all by yourselves;
There's no one about
But owls and elves.

"*Elves* are no good,
Not the least bit,
In a *real* wood;
To-whoo, to-whit.

"And what do you think
That owls can do,
For such as you,
But blink and wink?
To-whit, to-whoo—oo—oo—oo.

"Just look at *me*,
How I wink my eyes;
From *that* you'll see
That I'm very wise.

"And here's what *I* say:
You wouldn't have come
So far from home,
So late in the day,
If there'd been the least bit
Of mother wit
In either of *you*;
To-whoo, to-whit,
To-whit, to-whoo—oo—oo—oo—oo—oo!"

"WINKING WITH ALL ITS MIGHT."

"That's very true," said Jack, as the owl flew away; "but it's no good to tell us so now."

"Let us get into the tree," said Jill; "I'm sleepy." So they crept into

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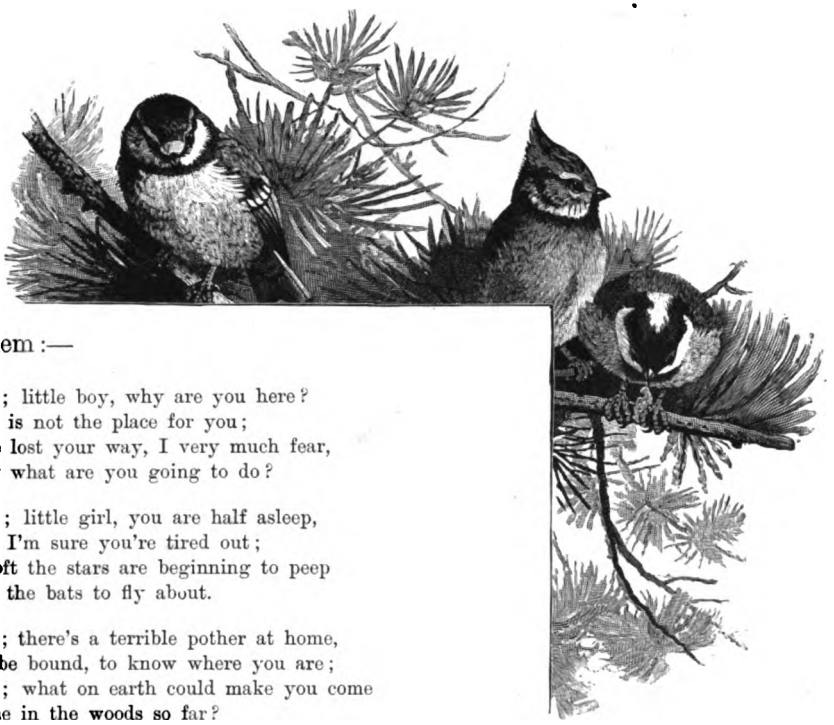
a tomtit hopping about from bough to bough on a large tree, which had a great hollow among its roots; and this is



What the tomtit said to them :—

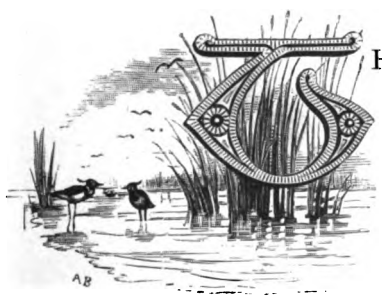
"Tititee; little boy, why are you here?
This is not the place for you;
You've lost your way, I very much fear,
Now what are you going to do?

"Tititee; little girl, you are half asleep,
And I'm sure you're tired out;
Up aloft the stars are beginning to peep
And the bats to fly about.

"Tititee; there's a terrible pother at home,
I'll be bound, to know where you are;
Tititee; what on earth could make you come
Alone in the woods so far?

"Tititee; your mother she's crying out,
And your daddy with fear is quaking,
And your brothers and sisters are looking about;
A precious row they're making.

"Tititee; you had better take my advice
And sleep in the old oak tree;
There's nobody there but two little dormice,
Half asleep; tititee; tititee."



HUS invited, Jack and Jill thought they could not do better than take the advice of the tomtit, and share the lodgings of the dormice; for they wisely thought that dormice, who have such first-rate heads for sleeping, must needs be the very best judges in the world of a good bedroom, so they crept into

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the roots of the old tree. When they got inside they were surprised to see how different it was from what they expected. Instead of being dark, it was all brilliantly lighted up with a thousand little candles; instead of being empty, it was full of bright little figures. There were tens of thousands of them; some were dancing in two or three circles, one within another; some walking about and conversing; some sitting down. At one end there was a throne, with a great Turkey carpet spread under it, and a canopy over it; and Jack felt sure that those who were under the canopy must be the King and Queen.

"FULL OF BRIGHT LITTLE FIGURES."

The King and Queen did not dance. "I wonder if they are too grand to dance," thought Jill. It did not appear so, however, for presently their majesties descended from their throne, and condescended to take a noble lord and a more noble lady from among the courtiers as partners; then all the dancers stopped and watched the King and Queen, and the noble lord and more noble lady took great pains not to dance more gracefully than their majesties.

All this time no one had taken any notice of Jack and Jill, but now the King said, in a royal voice, "Who are you?" "We are Jack and Jill, your majesty," said Jack, who knew how to talk to kings.

"We have graciously heard of you," said the king, royally again, "and we are pleased that you have come to see us."

"You are hungry after your travels?" asked the Queen.

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the hollow tree. And now they saw what they never saw before, and most likely will never see again.

For the whole tree was full of queer little figures. Some of them had the appearance of leaves of different kinds; some of acorns; some of blossoms of flowers; some were lilies, carnations, tulips, anemones; some leaves of grass, some daisies, some cowslips, some pansies. But the King and Queen (who sat under a canopy woven of blue sky with a golden sun worked in it) were roses; the little princes were wild roses and the princesses were moss rose-buds. They were all dancing.

"WHAT THEY NEVER SAW BEFORE."

Jack, much astonished, said to the King, "May I ask, Sire, what you are?" "Ignorant mortal!" replied the King, "we are the spirits of the trees and plants. Each one of us has the care of some tree or plant, and is like that which he takes care of."

"Indeed," said Jack. "Your majesty will, I trust, excuse me, but it is, I presume, your majesty and your servants who open the buds in the morning, and close them at night."

"It is," said the King, graciously; "and when the plants are asleep, we come here and have supper and dance."

"But who are *you?*" asked the Queen.

"We are Jack and Jill," replied Jill.

"I have heard of you before," said the Queen; "are you not hungry?"

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the hollow at the bottom of the tree, and very great indeed was the astonishment of both, as you may imagine, when they found inside the tree what seemed to be a large open plain, bounded on one side by lofty mountains, which were really the sides of the tree.

In the midst of the plain was a great city; great, that is, in the number of its houses, but small indeed in reality, since it was only a yard square. There was a royal palace at one end, with fountains in the gardens, and lofty walls with towers beside the gates; there were square pyramids, and palaces built on the plateaus on the sides of the mountains, and tall minarets all over the city; and in the distance a temple with a great ball of fire at the top, which gave light to all the city, and even the plain and mountains as well. Jack and Jill very nearly knocked down some of the city as they crept in, but they saw it just in time, and Jill leaned over the royal palace to look at it. They saw thousands of little men and women in the city, and even wandering over the plain, and all seemed as busy as possible. The King and Queen were seated under a canopy before the palace, superintending the revels and sometimes dancing with the courtiers. When they saw Jack and Jill, "Who are your greatnesses?" said the King. "Jack!" "Jill!" they replied. "Come and have supper with us?" bellowed the Queen at the top of her voice. "I presume your greatnesses are hungry?" inquired the King.

"JILL LEANED OVER THE ROYAL PALACE."

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the hollow under the tree, where they thought they could safely stay during the night, but, to their surprise, the whole of it was alive with little beings. They were like human figures curiously distorted; their heads were very large and their legs very long, and they were all busy planning something or other. Some were consulting how to turn the milk in the pans sour; some how to set houses on fire; some how to make the cows kick over the milk-maids; some how to make the apples drop off the trees before they were ripe; some how to make little girls and boys eat too much ("I always wondered why *that* was," said Jack, "till now"); some how to make boys quarrel with each other.

"DID NOT THEY JUMP?"

The King and Queen, who sat on a throne, consulted about affairs of state with their Prime Minister; but affairs of state were only how to make other nations quarrel and encourage them to go on as long as they could, or, just when they were ready to make peace, to set them quarrelling again, or drag somebody else into it.

Presently they all with one accord began to play leap-frog with each other, and did not they jump? Right up into the air they went, and the King and Prime Minister jumped as high as anyone, and those who were most mischievous took care to come down plump on their friends' backs. This was their idea of dancing.

ITHERTO, not one of the brownies had taken the smallest notice of Jack and Jill, but now the Prime Minister said, "How do you do?" in a prime-ministerial manner; on which Jack replied, "How do you do, my lord?" "Are you hungry?" asked the Queen, in a hospitable tone.

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"Yes, *that* we are!" said Jack and Jill in one breath.

"But, your majesty," said Jill, sorrowfully, and half inclined to cry, "I am afraid we should eat all your dinner in a mouthful."

"We don't ask people to dinner that we can't feed," said the King, angrily, "I'll manage all that."

Whereupon the King waved a sceptre which he held in his hand, and pronounced some wonderful words. Jack and Jill suddenly found themselves reduced to the same size as the little figures around them, still, however, keeping the same shape and appearance that they had before.

"Sit down," said the Queen, graciously.

So Jack sat by the Queen, and Jill by the King.

"FELL FAST ASLEEP."

"Bring forth the banquet!" shouted the Queen, in her most lofty tones, in order to impress Jack and Jill with a due sense of her dignity and importance.

Instantly a table appeared, though where it came from Jack could not see! On it were arranged thousands of plates and thousands of dishes, filled with such eatables as Jack and Jill had never seen before, nor have ever seen since. They set to work, however, and found everything remarkably good; and the King and Queen were most polite, offering them the best of all things, and recommending them the best mixtures of eatables and the best sauces. And now Jack and Jill, no larger than the tiny figures around them, found it easy to get enough. Then the dancing and games began again, and presently Jack and Jill, tired with watching, fell fast asleep.

MEANWHILE, Jack and Jill's father and mother had begun to wonder where on earth they were gone to. At first they were not much frightened, but as the night came

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"Very," said Jack, emphatically; "*very* hungry."

"Order up supper, my lord!" said the King, in a somewhat commonplace manner, to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister, bowing to the King, gave directions accordingly. All the little figures bustled about; tables were brought; and Jack and Jill had the honour of sitting by the King and Queen under their royal canopy, and eating at their royal table.

At first they were afraid, so small were the dishes, that they should not get enough to eat, but in this they were mistaken; for, by some wonderful magic, each mouthful, as they ate it, seemed in their mouths as large as if they had been eating supper at home. So they had a capital supper, and felt much refreshed after it.

"WONDERING WHERE THEY WERE GONE TO."

Then the King, when he saw that they had eaten enough, said, "My lord, let these tables be removed;" and the Prime Minister, bowing again, gave orders accordingly.

When the tables were cleared and taken away, the Queen said, "Shall we dance again?" and taking Jack's hand, while the King took Jill's, they proceeded into the midst of the circle of courtiers and renewed the ball. Jack wondered how it was possible to dance with anyone so small as this king and queen were, but he did not find it by any means difficult; and no doubt the ease with which these royal people danced must be ascribed to the fact that they were really a king and queen, and that kings and queens are so much taller than other people, or at any rate *seem* to be.

ALL this time Jack's father and mother had been much wondering where they were gone to. At first they supposed they were gone for a walk as usual, but soon they began to be alarmed about them, and gradually, as the time went by, became more and more anxious. Still there were no signs of Jack and Jill, and at last, as daylight waned and night came

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"We *are—rather* hungry," said Jill. At once some food was set before them, and they ate and drank till they were satisfied. Then the Queen said, "Shall I sing to you?" And what *could* Jill say to a queen but, "Yes, your majesty; if you will be so kind." So this is

THE QUEEN'S SONG.

We fays and elves and fairy sprites, and brownies of the hill,
Look on and watch this moving world, with all its good and ill;
We weep or laugh as we behold men's varying joys and cares,
As changeful hours bring their freight of laughter or of tears.
We watch the way the world goes—we always watched, they say—
And so we shall be watching till the world's last day.

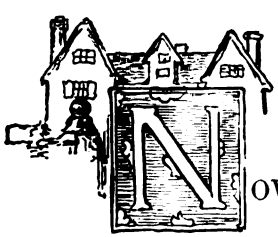
The little boy and maiden, in childhood's morning hours,
May revel in the sunshine and love the birds and flowers;
And knowledge comes with many a tear and many a troubled sigh,
But soon they dry forgotten tears and laugh their troubles by.
For that's the way the world goes, and always was the way,
And so it will be always to the world's last day.

Soon bashful youth and modest maid our Jack and Jill become,
And forth they go into the world and leave bright childhood's home;
And love brings blushes to each cheek and fills with thought the heart,
As lovers meet and parting sigh, and, sighing, still must part.
For that's the way the world goes—it always was the way—
And so it always will be to the world's last day.

Then on through noontide hours of life, fordone with care and coil,
To woo fair fortune's fickle smile, man's lot it is to toil;
The mother greets his late return with heartfelt welcome warm,
And proudly shows her first-born child safe nestled in her arm.
For that's the way the world goes—it always was the way—
And so it always will be to the world's last day.

At last must come the snowy hair on age's wrinkled brow,
And failing strength must dim the eye, the upright figure bow;
And saddest separations come, and many a long farewell,
As dearest souls go forth alone, in the far-off land to dwell.
For that's the way the world must go—it always was the way—
And so it must be always till the world's last day.

Thus life's bright stage the actors quit, their destined parts fulfilled,
They all their final exits make, and place to others yield;
And on from age to age the play is acted as of yore,
Until the curtain falls for good and earth's last scene is o'er.
And still we watch the world's great stage—as we always watched, they say—
And so we shall be watching at the world's last day.



As for Jack and Jill, they were long ago fast asleep! NOW, Jack's father and mother had wondered the whole day where they were, and, at last, as the evening came

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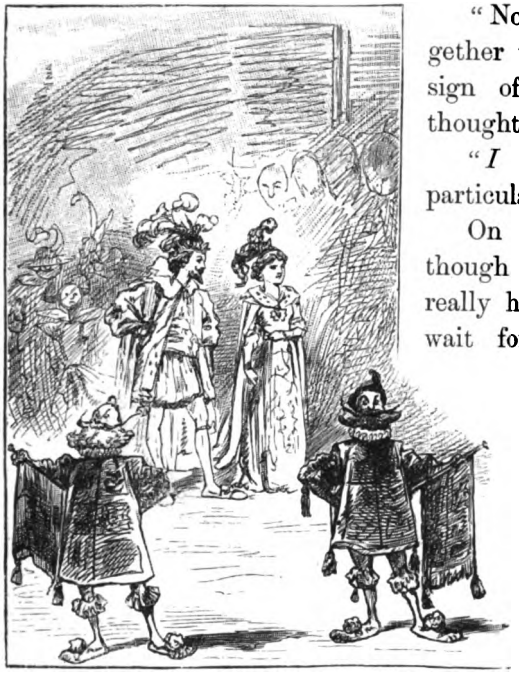

"BRING UP SUPPER!"

"Not at all," said Jill. It was not altogether true, but, as she saw there was no sign of any preparation for supper, she thought it polite to decline.

"*I* am," said Jack, who was not so particular.

On which the Prime Minister (who, though very *polite* to the King and Queen, really had his own way, and did not even wait for orders sometimes) shouted out to the attendants, "Bring up supper!"

Supper was quickly brought out, and laid out on tables in front of the royal throne. Jack and Jill had much difficulty in getting hold of the little dishes, and in eating the wee pieces of food which were on them. But at last they managed to get a good supper, and thanked the King and Queen politely for their good cheer.

"Take away!" shouted the Prime Minister, and the attendants quickly removed the supper and the tables.

Then the Queen, glancing at the Prime Minister, as if wondering whether he would object, said, "A song!" And thereupon all the little figures began to sing, clapping their tiny little hands to keep time, and the King and Queen and Prime Minister taking the solo parts with great skill. Jack and Jill thought they had never heard such excellent singing, for all of them knew their parts quite well, and everybody kept in good time and did not sing flat, which is not always the case with men and women. It was no wonder that, in the midst of such charming music, Jack and Jill fell asleep.

IN the meantime, Jack and Jill's father and mother began to wonder where they were. They expected them in vain at dinner and tea, and began to be anxious, and then, at last, as the night drew

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on, they determined to set forth and look for them, being now greatly alarmed at their not coming back.

"Let us take old Tozer the dog with us," said the father, "for *he* will be certain to find them out."

So they showed old Tozer one of Jack's shoes, and when he saw it he knew directly what he was to do, and he snuffed about everywhere on the road till he found by his nose which way they had gone. Then he went straight into the wood, and the father and Jack's brother went with him as he wandered about everywhere that they had been. It took, of course, a long time to follow them, but at last the dog came to the tree into which Jack and Jill had crept. He went straight in, and finding them there, lying asleep, he gave a great bark, as much as to say, "Here they are!" So Jack's father crept in, too, and found to his delight that his two children were quite safe, and they had been awakened by the bark which the dog gave.

Now, though they had been pleased enough to see the old tree lighted up by the elves, yet they were still more pleased to see it lighted up by their father's lantern. So they went home with him, and told him on the way all that they had seen in the tree; but as it happened that they did not quite agree in all the particulars, I am afraid he did not believe it all; and I hope, my dear little friends, that in this respect you will not be like him, but will believe every word of this and of all stories which are equally true, and will not (at any rate for the present) get so foolishly wise as to think that the dear old tales about fairies and elves are all of them quite

A "HUM."

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on, they began to fear that some accident had happened to them, and they set off in search of them.

It was some time before they found them, for they never thought of looking into the old hollow tree, although they guessed at once that they were somewhere in the wood. Jack and Jill were so tired with all their adventures in the day that they slept very soundly, and so did not wake up in spite of the many shouts of "*Jack!*" and "*Jill!*" that sounded through the wood.

At last, however, they were found, and carried home in triumph, but not without some scolding for the fright they had given their parents. Then they told them all that they had seen in the wood that day, and all the wonders of the hollow tree, and, in fact, talked of them for a long time afterwards. But no one quite believed all the story of the tree, and some asked Jack and Jill to come into the wood the next night to see if they could find any wonderful people in the tree again. So the next night they went with a lantern and looked into the tree, and it is my firm conviction that they could see nothing of the weird little figures just because they went with a lantern and just out of curiosity, for fays and elves, and such-like sprites, are fond of disappointing those who visit them from no better reason.

But when Jack and Jill got home that night, although they had slept very sound for some time in the tree, they were still very tired, and were soon put to bed. So let us now wish them, and you too (dear little friends), if it is bed-time, a very

"GOOD NIGHT."

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on, they were frightened out of their very wits, and supposed that Jack and Jill had been stolen by gipsies, or got drowned in the river.

They never thought of looking for them in the wood, though they searched for them everywhere else. So next morning, when Jack and Jill woke up in the tree, their father and mother were still looking for them everywhere but in the right place.

The first thing they did was to look for the little figures, and particularly their majesties. They could see nothing of them, and there was no answer even when they called out, "Your majesty!" and "My lord the Prime Minister!" as loud as ever they could.

Seeing there was no prospect of breakfast with the little people, they said the best thing was to go and get breakfast at home, and come and look for them another time.

They started off, therefore, and as they soon came to the stream which flowed down through the wood into the village, all they had to do was to follow it, and they quickly found themselves out of the wood.

They were soon at the house; and found their father and mother crying, and in a great trouble about them. When they saw them come back quite safe and sound they cried again, this time for joy. They asked them where they had been, and told them they must not go into the wood any more without someone to take care of them. And, indeed, when they remembered how frightened they themselves had been before they saw the little people in the tree, they were themselves glad to be again

AT HOME.

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on, they were in a terrible fright about them, and, after making some inquiries of the neighbours, they started off to try and find them. Someone said they had been seen going into the wood, so they searched for them all night there, but could not find them, for they never thought of looking into the roots of the old tree.

At last the morning came, and Jack and Jill woke up when the daylight looked in at them in the old tree. They were rather stiff with so hard a bed, but they looked about for the little figures they had seen in the tree the night before, but they could see nothing of them.

"It is strange," said Jack, "that we cannot see them."

"Elves and people of that sort," said Jill, wisely, "only appear at night."

"*I* want some breakfast," said Jack, "and I think we shall get it best at home."

Just then they heard someone coming, and they soon found themselves in their father's arms.

"I am so glad," said the father: "why did you run away into the wood? We were so frightened."

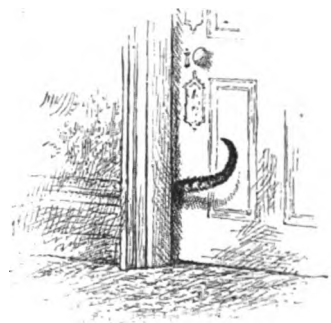
"Why should you be frightened?" said Jack. "All boys like woods."

"We have lots to tell you," said Jill.

So they went home and had some breakfast, and told all they had seen in the wood.

But no one believed them, and every one said, "It *must* have been a dream."

They said, "No! It was all quite true." But as they did not go again the next night to see the little figures, I am afraid it must remain still uncertain whether it was a dream or not; and this, dear little friends, is



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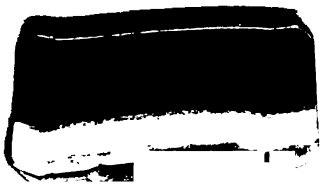

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